

APPEAL

FROM THE

COUNTRY

TO THE

CITY,

For the PRESERVATION of His

MAJESTIES PERSON,

Liberty, Property,

AND THE

Protestant Religion.

Salus Populi, Suprema Lex.

L A O P O L I S.

L O N D O N,

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1679

APPEAL

FROM THE

COUNTRY To The CITY.

Most brave and noble Citizens,

AS the City of London is the great Metropolis and Soul of our once flourishing and glorious Kingdom, so is it no small honour to you the Inhabitants thereof, to be Citizens of so brave a City. Wherefore 'tis the hopes of the whole Nation, that you have Spirits and Courage to act according to the Character you bear, that upon all necessary occasions you may vindicate the just Concerns of your City: In them we are all involv'd; with you we stand, and with you we fall; your example directs our conduct, and they who desire to lay you in ashes, are the only persons who would subvert our Religion and Property; for when you are once ruined, the next thing will be, 'Tis Ahab, and take possession.

Now Gentlemen, before we represent to you the estate of our misery, and ground of our jealousies and fears; 'tis our humble request, that those who have most Power amongst you, would so far trouble themselves, as to go to the top of your new rais'd Pyramid, and from thence take a Survey of that magnificent Pile of building, whereof you are yet Masters: In which posture, to animate you with true English Spirits, be pleas'd to fancy to your selves these following objects, which you will infallibly see come to pass, when ever Popery prevails.

First, Imagine you see the whole Town in a flame, occasioned this second time, by the same Popish malice which set it on fire before. At the same instant fancy, that amongst the distracted Crowd, you behold Troops of Papists, ravishing your Wives and your Daughters, dashing your little Childrens brains out against the walls, plundering your Houses, and cutting your own throats, by the Name of Heretick Dogs. Then represent to your selves the Tower playing off its Cannon, and battering down your Houses about your Ears. Also casting your eye towards Smithfield, imagine you see your Father, or your Mother, or some of your nearest and dearest Relations, tyed to a Stake in the midst of flames, when with hands and eyes lifted up to Heaven, they scream and cry out to that God for whose Cause they die; which was a frequent spectacle the last time Popery reign'd amongst us. Fancy you behold those beautiful Churches erected for the true Worship of God, abused and turn'd into idolatrous Temples; to the dishonour of Christ, and scandal of Religion; the Ministers of God's holy Word torn in pieces before your eyes, and their very best Friends not daring even to speak in their behalf; Your Trading's bad, and in a manner lost already, but then the only Commodity will be Fire and Sword; the only object, Women running with their Hair about their Ears, Men cover'd with blood, Children sprawling under Horsfeet, and only the Walls of Houses left standing: When those that survive this fatal day, may sigh and cry, Here once stood my House, there my Friend's, and here my Kinsman's; But alas that time is past! The only noise will then be, O my Wife, O my Husband, O my dearest Children! In fine, what the Devil himself would do, were he here upon Earth, will in his absence infallibly be acted by his Agents the Papists; those who had so much ingratitude and baseness to attempt the Life of a Prince so indulgent to them, will hardly be less cruel to any of his Protestant Subjects.

*Wake drowsie Subjects, and prevent your doom,
Let England not be twice enslav'd by Rome.*

If the approaching ruine of the Father could open the dumb Son's mouth, then all that are either true Protestants, good English-men or well-wishers to the Interest of this Nation, have now the same reason to speak and complain, when without a miracle our apparent ruin is at hand, the Sword hangs over our heads, and seems to be supported by no stronger force than that of one single hair, his Majesties Life. We in the Country have done our parts, in chousing for the generality good Members to serve in Parliament; but if (as our two last Parliaments were) they must be dissolv'd or prorog'd, when ever they come to redress the Grievances of the Subject, we may be pitied, but not blam'd. If the Plot takes effect, (as in all probability it will) our Parliaments are not then to be Condemn'd, for that their not being suffer'd to sit occasion'd it. The Plot is now got so far out of our Enemies reach, that no subtil evasion or trick can ever hope to extinguish it; wherefore they must either suffer all to come out, or begin by force to justify it, which we see they are going to do, by their endeavouring to get those worthy and brave Commanders Banish'd, who (as they think) are the most likely persons to conduct and lead us up against any Popish Army; the Wolf hath nothing more to do, but to destroy the Shepherd, and then fall upon the naked Sheep. But Gentlemen, be not dismay'd, the Lord of Hosts will be of your sides; for so long as you fight his Cause, he will fight your Battels; and if God be for you, who dares be against you? Fear nothing, but as your Interests are united, so let your Resolutions be the same; and the first hour wherein you hear of the King's untimely end, let no other noise be heard among you but that of Arms, Arms,

to revenge your Sovereign's Death, both upon his Murtherers, and their whole Party, for that there is no such thing as an *English* Papist who is not in the Plot, at least in his good wishes. Let not fear of loosing part by your action, make you lose the whole by your patience: Think not to fare better than the rest, by meddling less, for that Conquerours promises are never kept, especially coming from that sort of people, whose Maxim it is, never to keep their words with *Hereticks*. Wherefore if ever a Popish Successor comes amongst you, let his promises of keeping your Religion and Laws, or of his Conversion, be never so plausible, credit 'em not; for if you do, you will infallibly be deceiv'd, and in time find them to be but like the Bait to a Mouse-trap. Or if you think to bind and fetter him by Laws, that will be no better then the Wise Men of *Gotham's* hedging in the Cuckow; for when he (as all other Popish Kings do) governs by an Army, what will all your Laws signifie? You will not then have Parliaments to appeal to; He and his Counsel will levy his arbitrary Taxes, and his Army shall gather them for him: Therefore you may much easier prevent the Distemper at first, than remedy it when it had once got a head. Now Gentlemen, lest any amongst you should be ignorant either of your Enemies, or their Designs both against the King and Kingdom, be pleas'd to consider what follows, and then think how to prevent it.

I.

First then, That you may know who are your Enemies at this time: They are young beggarly Officers, Courtiers, over-hot Church-men, and Papists. the young Officer or Souldier his Interest makes him wish for a standing Army, not considering any further than his own Pay and Plunder, and so helps to ruine you that way. The Courtier endeavours to advance Taxes, oppress the people by vast and illegal Impositions, which looking upon his Prince but as his Ox, he fattens him upon his Neighbours Pasture, only for his own eating. Over hot Church-men are bribed to wish well to Popery, by the hopes (if not of a Cardinals Cap) yet at last of a Command over some Abby, Priory, or other Ecclesiastick preferment, whereof the *Roman* Church hath so great plenty. These are the men who exclaim against our Parliaments Proceedings, in relation to the Plot, as too violent, calling these Times by no other Name but of 40 or 41. when to amuse his Sacred Majesty as well as his good People, they again threaten us with another 48, and all this is done to vindicate under-hand the Catholick Party; by throwing a suspicion on the Fanaticks. These are Gentlemen who so magnifie the Principles of Bishop *Laud*, and so much extol the Writings of the late same spirited Prelate Dr. *Hylin*, who hath made more Papists by his Books, than Christians by his Sermons. These are those Episcopal Tangivies, who make even the very Scriptures Pimp for the Court, who out of *Urim* and *Thummim* can extort a Sermon, to prove the not paying of Tythes and Taxes to be the Sin against the holy Ghost, and had rather see the Kingdom run down with blood, than part with the left hem of a consecrated Frock, which they themselves made holy. These are the persons who commend *Oates* and *Bedloe*, but find fault with their Evidence, when by crediting some part of the Plot, and suspecting the rest, by speaking three words for it, and two against it, they cunningly endeavour to invalidate the whole. Lastly, The chief and most dangerous of your Enemies are Papists, who to make sure of their own Game, allure all the three fore-mentioned Parties to their side, by the Arguments aforesaid. Their Design is to bring in Popery, which they can no ways effect, but either by a Popish Successour, or by the *French* Armes: The first of these we may our selves prevent; and for the latter, if they Conquer, they will undoubtedly Conquer for themselves, and not for him that brought them in. And if we ever should be reduced to that extremity, either to submit to the *French*, or to our own Popish Successour, ever man that hath any Brains or Generosity, will soon find it his interest of the two, rather to submit to a Foreign Power, who hath not violated the Laws of Nature, in fighting against his own Subjects, and who will also be less revengeful, and more likely to let us enjoy our own Religion and Liberties, than any Popish Successour will: Besides, 'tis natural for every Noble Spirit, to bear a Cudgeling from another Man's Servant with less regret, than from his own; however, God deliver us from both.

I I.

In the next place, to discover to you how long this Plot hath been on foot; I must acknowledge, that there is some coherence between the beginning of the late Civil Wars, and this our present Age, for as well then, as now, the ambitious *Popish* and *French* Faction were the chief, nay the only Incendiaries which set us all in a Flame; the *Catholick Cause*, like the Chesnut in the Fable, hath ever since Queen *Mary's* Reign been in the Fire: wherefore as the Fox made use of the Ape's, so both then and now the *Papists* make use of the *Episcopal* and *Court*-Parties Claw, to take it out; the first of these they allure to their assistance, by the fright of *Presbytery*: the latter, by the apprehension of a *Republick*: although nothing is less design'd, or more improbable: Secretary *Windebank's* many Orders (which stand recorded at this day) to secure the *Roman Catholicks* from the execution of all Penal Laws against them, in the late King's time, are a sufficient evidence, that they then received no less countenance, than now: and for that vain pretence of their Loyalty to the late King, nothing will appear more ridiculous, if we consider; 1. That they had no other Party to expect any advantage from, for that no Government but Monarchy, can in *England* ever support or favour that Religion: neither (notwithstanding their many offers) could they ever be entertain'd or received by the Parliament-Party, unless it was under a disguise, which many for that purpose made use of: So as their Loyalty and good Service paid to the King, was meerly in their own defence, well knowing, that the foundation of those Commotions, was only in opposition to their Party: who as well then, as now, had a desire to run the hazard of a War. 2ly. and lastly, Their Fidelity to their Sovereign appear'd in its true Colours, when they were so earnest with *Oliver* to accept of the Crown; which shewed, that since nothing but a Crown'd Head could do good to the *Popish Religion*, they did not care who wore it, so long as it was but worn. Now in acquainting you herewith, I do in effect shew you what is at this time acting amongst them, for 'tis the same Play, though an old one newly revived: and as that which the *Papists* then acted, was then laid upon the *Fanaticks*: so was the like to have been done in this present Plot: in order whereunto, just before the discovery of the same, they had seiz'd upon, one Mr. *Claypole*, for having (as they pretended) a design to Murder His Sacred Majesty: thinking, when it was once reported abroad, that he and the Old *Oliverian* Party had a Conspiracy to take away the King's Life, then in the mean while the *Papists* themselves might safely do it, as we see they had at that time, viz. August 1678. resolv'd upon) and that then it would all have gone upon the *Non-Conformists* score: for however there was never any person living, more generous and obliging to the King's whole Party, than this very Man the Lord *Claypole* was, when he bore that Honour; yet he having Married *Oliver Cromwell's* Daughter, rendred him a fit subject to put this trick upon: which by Dr. *Oars*'s discovery of the Plot, came to light, the Evidence against him vanish'd, and the poor Gentleman releas'd. Much such another design was that of the *Papists* in *Scotland*; who first by their Counsels procured the poor Inhabitants to be oppress'd, and then sending their disguis'd Priests and Emisaries amongst them, encouraged the poor silly Natives do Mutiny against these Oppressions, hoping yet by this second Stratagem, to cast the Plot upon the *Presbyterians*,

and for not only Dr. Oates mentions this in his Evidence, but we all know the *Papists* themselves were so well assur'd of this Rising, before it hap'n'd. That at the disbanding of this late Popish Army, many of the Officers and Soldiers had secret orders not to sell their Horses, but to be in a readiness for that they should have occasion to use them again within a fortnight; and so it happen'd, for within less than a fortnight after the disbanding, the Rebellion broke out in Scotland: So well acquainted were the Authors of this mischief with the time when it would happen. Now this insurrection was in two respects advantageous to the *Catholic Party*, for first, among Foreigners and Strangers who were not acquainted with the depth of the Intrigues, it seem'd to cast the Plot upon the *Non-Conformists*; and 2dly, being beaten by the Kings Forces (whereof no other was to be expected) it might make both them and us less apt to rise upon any account whatsoever. But here give me leave to present you with one Observation, which is, that if this had been a *Fanatical Plot*, the same Party would certainly have risen in *England*, at the same time when their Brethren of *Scotland* were in Arms, the encouraging of one another being of more consequence to both, than the expectation of the others success.

III.

After the Catholics had thus brought the Fathers Head to the Block, and sent the young Princes into Exile let us reflect upon their usage of them in *France* and see whether the kindness that the *French Catholics* then paid to our King, was sufficient to bring us in to that misery where in we are immers'd, by so entirely espousing the *French* and *Papists* Cause, even almost to the destruction of the Protestant Religion, and ruine of all *Christianity* besides. Did the banishing of his Majesty, and slighting of him whilst he was among them deserve this kindness at our hands? What charitable Christians are we grown thus to return good for evil? I must confess they did ever treat his R. H. with some Respect, as finding him to retain more favourable inclinations both towards their Religion and Government, than His Gracious Majesty did: whose Understanding and Wit, as it made him condemn their Superstitious Idolatry and Fopperies; so did his lenity and good nature, render their Tyranny altogether odious in his sight: besides, if his Majesty had then discover'd in himself the least inclinations to Popery, it might in all probability have rendred the Crown of *England* unaccessible. However, I cannot but ascribe great part of our present Calamities, to his Highnesses Education in that Arbitrary and Popish Government: With what eagerness have we assisted them in their Conquests, even to the defanation of our own Honour, and violation of our Publick Faith, with all the rest of *Christianity*? We first made Them an Idol, and now we worship it; We first taught them the Art of Navigation, and now are ready to strike Sail to them our selves. Not any new invention that is of use, either in building Ships, or making Ordnance can be discover'd here, but immediately we charitable *English* (for fear we should be too strong for them) must communicate it to our dear Brethren the *French*. Nor have we been altogether unkind to the rest of our Neighbours, when by procuring a general Peace, we have pluck'd the Thorns out of their feet, to put 'em into our own; made a Peace for them, in order to bring a War upon our selves. I confess, when I think how faithful we have been to the *French* in all these late Wars, as also how much service our *English* Canon (whereof we have too great plenty,) did them at their Siege of *Valenciennes*, I cannot but call to mind *Commynes's* relation of King *Lewis* the Eleventh's bribing our *English* Council, *Phil. Com. 6. l. 2.* paying at that time yearly Pensions to the Lord Chancellor, Master of the Rolls, *Hastings* Lord High Chamberlain Lord *Howard*, and all other Persons who had any Power or interest with their Master King *Edward*; for if something of this nature did not prevail amongst us, His Majesty would never have adher'd to any but the *Dutch*, whose perpetual Interest it is to keep the Crown upon His Head, for that nothing would so much advantage *France*, and ruine *Holland*, as to have *England* become a Commonwealth: when like *Rome* and *Carthage*, being continually clashing together, the *French* might in time ruine both.

IV.

Having but now mentioned *Commynes*, give me leave to insert another Story of his, which may be very much to our purpose, to shew you that when God designs the Destruction of a King or People, he makes them deaf to all Discoveries, *Phil. Com. 1. 5. c. 6. 8.* be they never so obvious. This account is concerning the Duke of *Burgundy*, who being at War with *Lewis* the XI. of *France*, entertain'd as his chief Minister and Favourite the Earl of *Campobache*, upon whom he bestowed great Gifts, committing to his care his whole concerns: But this Earl having no sense either of Honour or Gratitude, took the advantage of his Masters the Dukes troubles, and set up a Resolution to destroy him. For which end and purpose, he began under-hand to treat both with the Duke of *Lorraine*, and with divers of the Kings Officers that were quartered in *Champagne*, near to the Dukes Camp. Now to the Duke of *Lorraine* he promised so to order the matter, that this Siege of his Masters (the Duke of *Burgundy*) against *Nancy*, should take no effect: for he would take care that such things as were necessary either for the Siege or Battery, should be wanting: which promise he was able to perform. For that the principal charge thereof was committed to him. neither had any man so great Authority as he, in the Army under the Duke of *Burgundy*. But to the Kings Officers he promis'd either to kill his Master, or take him Prisoner demanding for his recompence thereof, the charge of those 400 Lances, which he had then in keeping, with 20000 Crowns in ready money, and some good Earldom in *France*. Now whilst the Earl of *Campobache* was plotting these Treasons, one *Cifron* a Gentleman belonging to the Duke, and that was acquainted with this Earls Conspiracy, happened (in attempting to relieve the Town of *Nancy*) to be taken Prisoner by the Duke of *Burgundy*, who was set down before it: Whereupon this *Cifron* being condemned to die, in hopes of a Pardon, offered that if the Duke would give him Audience, he would reveal a secret to him which concerned his Life; whereof certain Gentlemen (to whom *Cifron* had told this) went to advertise the Duke with whom at their arrival they found this Earl of *Campobache* come thither (as was supposed) on purpose to be always ready, fearing lest *Cifron*, to save his own Life, should have any such intent to reveal the Conspiracy. The Duke returned this Answer to the Gentlemen who brought him the Message, That the Prisoner used this delay only to respite his own Death, and commanded them that he should discover what he knew to them: which way the Earl of *Campobache* well approved of. Upon this *Cifron* replied, That he would communicate it to no man but the Duke of *Burgundy* himself: So that he was again by the Dukes special Command led out to Execution; but in his way thither, he desired Divers Gentlemen once more to acquaint their Master from him, that it was such a Secret that the Duke would not for a Dutchy but know. Many hearing this, went again to intreat the Duke to vouchsafe him a hearing; but this treacherous Earl, keeping the Dukes Chamber Door, would not permit these Gentlemen to enter, saying, That the Duke had resolv'd to hear no further from him; wherefore he dispatch'd away new Messengers to the Provost, to hasten his Execution. Thus was this *Cifron* hanged, to the utter ruine of the Duke of *Burgundy*, his House, and Dominions; so infatuated was his understanding. After this our Wicked Earl began to put in practice his Treachery, for the which purpose he agreed first with a *French* WAKEMAN, or Physician dwelling in *LYONS*, called Mr. *SIMON* of *PAPIA*, and afterwards with the KINGS Embassador in *SAVOY*: neither of which Ways Succeeding, he offered to flee with all his Forces from his Master to King *Lewis*; but the King detestling such Treasons of a Servant against his Master, sent by the Lord Conte to acquaint the Duke of *Burgundy* with it: But the Duke (as if he had been himself in the Plot against his own Life) was so foolish and stupid a Prince, that he receiv'd this second warning with no more sense than the former, saying, That if this discovery were true, the King (being his Enemy) would never have advertised him thereof: wherefore he ever after that loved the Earl rather better than before. But this folly of his was justly rewarded: for in a short time after, when the Duke of *Burgundy* and the Duke of *Lorraine* were engaged, this Earl of *Campobache*, with many of his Forces, revolted to the Enemy, whereby the Duke of *Burgundy's* Forces were routed, and he himself actually slain. Never did Prince fall more unpitied than this Duke did; nor did his people know which most to blame of the two, either he who began this Conspiracy, by his wickedness, or the Duke himself who gave it success, by his folly: The application of which Story I shall leave for you to make.

V.

There are four several Arguments, which many times prevail with Princes, to be incredulous of all pretended Conspiracies against themselves. The first is drawn from their being in, or made privy themselves to part of the Plot, but not the whole. The second, From their own good Nature and clemency. The third from the nature of the Evidence. And the fourth, From the Nature and Interest of the pretended Conspirators. To begin then with the first: when the Prince hath been made acquainted with the Design of introducing a new Government,

ment, or new Religion, but not with the Design of taking away his own Life, this sometimes hath prevail'd with him not to believe, that the same Party with whom he himself is in a Conspiracy, should have any such other Plot against his Life. But this I hope is not our case, for that no Religion or Government can be so much for his Majesties advantage, as that which is establish'd amongst us: Since in Popery, although his Majesty would be made absolute over his Subjects, yet his slavery to the Pope would be so great, that as well his Liberty as his Revenues would be much less than now. For besides the vast sums of Money that would then go from the Exchequer to the Church, I dare boldly affirm, that had his Majesty been never so absolute, he could not in this time have squeez'd more money from the Subject, than he hath already received in Taxes since his coming in; and that must have been done by a standing Army, which would make him odious, and eat up half his profit. 'Tis policy in the Prince not to take away all at once, but to leave a Nest-Egg, if he designs they should lay again; but for the Church of *Rome*, who ever reads our Chronicles will find, that no School-boys have been greater slaves to their Masters, than many of our *English* Kings were to the Pope; and those who were above his discipline, the *Romish* Church ever found some way or other to cut him off, either by setting his own people against him, as they did by *K. John*, or by some infallible Catholick Poyson, or by some bloody *Godfrey* Dagger. *K. Edgar* for his Incontinency was enjoin'd by *Dunstan* Abbot of *Glassenbury*, not to wear his Crown for seven years, to which he was forced to submit. King *Henry II.* to expiate the Murder of *Thomas Becket*, (committed by his Courtiers) was forced to walk bare-footed three miles to visit his Shrine, and then to receive fourscore lashes upon his bare back from the Monks. King *John* for opposing Pope *Innocent III.* was (after interdicting the Realm for six years and three months) forced to render his Crown to *Pandolphus* the Pope's Legat, and take it again in Fee-farm at the Rent of a thousand Marks yearly, nor did this satisfy the Popish malice, for he was at last poyson'd in *Swinshead*-Abbey by one *Simon* a Monk. Furthermore to let you see, that in the time of Popery, Princes lived not so peaceably as now; be pleas'd to observe, that betwixt the Conquest and our Reformation, seven of our *English* K. were murther'd, viz. *K. John*, *Richard I.* *Edward II.* *Rich. II.* *Edward V.* *Henry VI.* and *Richard III.* (not to mention the Emperor *Henry VII.* who was poyson'd in the Eucharist by one *Bernard* a Monk, nor *Henry III.* of *France*, stabb'd by *Clement* the Monk, nor *Henry IV.* of *France*, stabb'd by *Raviliac*, or those many hundred Examples of this nature, which I could produce out of other Chronicles.) So that what ever Prince considers these things aright, I think he can have no Interest to introduce Popery, unless he desires either to be whipp'd by a Monk, or stabb'd or poyson'd by a Jesuit; for in such a case, 'tis the Jesuits that govern, and not the King.

V I.

The second Motive which may incline a Prince to disbelieve the report of a Plot, is from his own good nature and Clemency, which makes him not expect any ill from those to whom he has been so kind. But this is a fallacious way of arguing; for a Prince who would preserve himself against Conspiracy, is to have an eye rather upon those he has oblig'd, than those he has offended; for those that are offended, have not such frequent opportunities, nor such easie access to him as the other have; and for their disposition, it is much alike, the desire of Dominion being as great if not greater than the desire of revenge. We see therefore, that where any great Conspiracy has been made, it has been most Commonly began by such as were most familiar with the Prince, and most in his favour; for so it was in the Conspiracy of *Perennius* against *Commodus*, *Plantianus* against *Severus*, *Sejanus* against *Tiberius*: all which were Favourites, & highly oblig'd by their several Emperors. So that what ever Prince trusts too much to the friendship of his dearest Favourites, nay to his own Brother, may sometimes find himself deceiv'd. The Earl of *Campobache* (whom I mention'd before) had received Favours, sufficient to have oblig'd him more faithfully to his Master the Duke, than he afterwards proved. *Brutus* was as dear, and (many think) as nearly related to *Cesar*, as any brother, but yet we see he had a hand in his Murther. The nearer a Friend is, the nearer is he to be my Heir, therefore the more likely to wish my death. Friends are oftentimes as dear to us as our Relations, therefore the Laws of Kindred may as well be violated as the Laws of Friendship, than which nothing is more usual. Who betrays you in your Bed? your friend. For your Enemy is not Admitted to your house. Who betrays you in your Estate? Your Friend; for your Enemy is not made your Trustee: So that nothing is more dangerous than a blind Friendship. The *Turks* well know, how much more prevalent Interest is amongst Brothers than Affection, which makes the Laws of their Empire, take so severe a course with the *Grand Seigneur's* younger Brothers. How many Princes have been ruin'd by their next impatient Heirs, nay even sometimes by their own Sons! That most prodigious Empire which *Tamberlain* the Great had acquired, how was it Torn in pieces, and destroy'd by a division betwixt his two Sons? Did not *Gain* kill *Abel*? And was not *Joseph* sold into *Egypt* by his brethren? Had not *Agrippina* her *Wakeman*, wherewith she poyson'd her own Husband the Emperor *Claudius*? And was not she her self afterwards kill'd by her own Son *Nero*? If (as we often see) little petty Interests make one brother wish the other's death; how much more prevalent will the Interest of a Crown be? nay of two Crowns, viz. one here, and another hereafter in Heaven, promis'd him by an old Fellow with a bald pate, and a spade beard: *Si violandum est jus Regnandi gratia*. And besides all this, when a Successor observes, that the Life of one single Person, not only keeps him from three Kingdoms, but also makes him, his Family, and whole Party, be banish'd and persecuted, you must needs acknowledge, that he lyes under a great Temptation to violate the sixth Commandment: Which things being consider'd, together with that Law which whipes off all Attain-

ders, whether of Treason or Murder, by the descent of the Crown, I cannot but think, that a Prince's good Nature, renders him secure only in his own conceit, and not in reality. We all know, that his *R. H.* hath held Correspondence with Cardinal *Norfolk*, and other the *Pope's* Nuncio's, about introducing *Popery*; and we are likewise inform'd, that *Popery* was to be introduced by the King's Death: So how a man could be privy to the Effect, without being acquainted with the Means, seems very prodigious.

VII.

Thirdly, Most Princes believe or disbelieve the Information which is given them of a Plot, according to the nature of the Evidence, and credit of the Informants. First, For the nature of the Evidence, what is it? That they had a Design to Murder the King, and introduce *Popery*. What is there improbable in all this? Was there never any Prince Murder'd before by a Conspiracy? Was there never any Attempt before, to introduce into a Countrey a new Religion? Why then have we so many Laws made to prevent such a thing, if it seems so improbable ever to be done? When the *Romans* forbore to make any Law against Parricide, it was out of a presumption that it would never be acted: But we all know, that these are things which the *Papists* have several times before attempted amongst us; witness the Gunpowder-Treason, the Invasion of the *Spaniards* in 88. and their many Attempts both against Queen *Elizabeth's* and King *James's* Persons. So that I cannot apprehend any thing strange in their Relation: The only miracle that appears to me is, that any one (but those that are in the Plot) should question the truth of it; especially when they consider the wonderful manner of its discovery, wherein the Providence of God appear'd most remarkable, that still as one man's Evidence has been censured, a fresh Witness hath risen up to supply and strengthen the former. Had this Plot been a forged Contrivance of their own, they would at the very first discovery of it, have had half a dozen or half a score crafty Fellows, ready to have attested all the same thing; whereas on the contrary, (notwithstanding we are now on a burning scent) we were fain till here of late to pick out by little and little all upon a cold scent, and that stained too by the tricks and malice of our Enemies: So that had we not had some such good Huntsmen as the right Noble Earl of *Shaftsbury*, and our late Secret Committee, to manage the Chase for us, our Hounds must needs have been baffled, and the Game lost. In my whole life-time, of all the Histories I have ever read or heard of, I do not remember to have met with any action more bold or gallant, than was that of Dr. *Oates's* Discovery; for one single man (as he did) to flie in the face of so prevailing a Party as they were, without any second to back him; to persist and justify his Evidence, after the many discountenances were at first shew'd him; to accuse persons of that high quality, power, and revenge, when *Everard* had before been denied the benefit of the Sun, and kept close prisoner in a Dungeon four years together, only for coming over to discover, that the *Papists* beyond Sea had a design to bring in *Popery* here: When Justice *Godfrey* had been Murder'd, only for acquainting the Council with what he told him; and yet for him to adhere to his Information, certainly nothing could be more bold or brave. How many and how great discouragements hath this Discovery met with: First, When the Lord of *Danby* was so long acquainted with it, and conceal'd it time enough for the Plotters to convey away both their Persons and Papers. Secondly, The Visit of her *R. H.* to see the Princess in *Flanders*, at the first breaking out of the Plot, in which Voyage many Priests, Jesuits and Plotters, made their escape. Thirdly, The conveying away all *Coleman's* Letters, which treated of these two last years. Fourthly, The getting *Prance* to recede three several times backward and forward from his own Evidence. Fifthly, The suffering Priests to have access to tamper with the condemn'd Plotters in *Newgate*, to make them deny all, and with a Lye in their Mouths die as innocent as the Child unborn. Sixthly, These frequent Dissolutions and Prorogations of Parliaments, to prevent the Tryal of the Lords. Seventhly, Suffering Sir *Philip Floyd*, Clerk of the Council, at the Tryal of *Wakeman*, to come and testify against the King, in behalf of the Prisoner, what he heard at the Council-Table, a place where all things that are done, ought to be kept secret, and so had this, had it not been in favour of *Wakeman*. Eighthly, The freeing *Wakeman*, and questioning the truth of that very same Evidence, whereon the same Judge had hang'd so many before: But however my Lord Chief Justice and the Jury had so good an opinion of his Innocence, yet Sir *George* himself had not so, as appears by his flying away beyond Sea, so soon as ever his Tryal was over. These and innumerable other Discouragements hath the Plot met with, which being observ'd, together with the due circumstance of the Evidence, I think no man that is not in the whole or part of the Plot himself, can doubt the verity of it. Indeed at the first many thought to cast a suspicion upon what *Oates* and *Bedlow* inform'd, as being two persons of an Idle life and conversation; but how ridiculous is this? As if such Rogues would trust such a Villany with honest men, or any but those that had been as bad as themselves; you might as well expect a High way-man should go and acquaint my Lord Chief Justice, or my Lord of *Canterbury*, when he meant to commit the next Robbery; but a bad shift is better than none at all. So that from the nature of the Evidence, or credit of the Informants, no man can take exception against the Information either of Dr. *Oates*, Mr. *Bedlow*, or any of the rest, to whom Mr. *Jennison* hath lately given no small credit, in discovering the four Villains, that (as Mr. *Oates* had said) were to have Assassinated his Majesty at *Windsor*.

The fourth and last Argument (which may sometimes prevail with the Prince to disbelieve any report of a Conspiracy) is taken from the Nature and Interest of the pretended Conspirators: but neither of these motives can pretend to influence our Prince into a disbelief of this Popish Plot: For first, as to their Nature and Principles, we all know that in one of their own Councils, *viz.* the *Lutheran*, were introduced those two Hellish Tenants of *murdering Kings, and eating their God*: But the Papists will tell you, that they do not murder Kings, for the Pope he first deposes them at *Rome*, and then if they kill him, they kill but a private person: We all likewise know, that 'tis held an Act of Merit amongst them, to murder an Heretick, witness their Massacre of the poor Protestants at *Paris*: and to murder a Husband, a Brother, or any such near Relation that is an Heretick, the greater is the Merit, by reason of the self-denial and injury done to our selves, in the loss of so near a Friend; but to murder an Heretick King, (especially where there is a popish Successor) they hold to be the greatest of all merits, even sufficient to Canonize him for a Saint, by reason of the vast advantage will thereby accrew to the popish Religion, not doubting but that the rest of the Kingdom will, *Regis ad exemplum*, soon after turn Papists. Having thus therefore shew'd them to be prepar'd with Principles, sufficient to undertake any such Villany, let us in the next place examine their Interest, as it stands at this time, where we shall find, that their Interest does unavoidably excite them to murder his Sacred Majesty: For first, They know he cannot long subsist without a considerable sum of Money, which he must receive either from their Party, or from the Parliament: Now for them to supply him with so vast a sum, is a Charge, that (you may well imagine) they would desire to get rid of, if they could, though by the King's Death: On the other side, for the Parliament to supply him with Money, that they know cannot be done, but by taking off the Heads of their Faction, excluding their Succession, and consenting to such Laws as mult of necessity ruin them: Besides, his Majesty hath already permitted the executing so many of their Party, as they never can or will forgive it. All which put together, with the great expectation they have from a popish Successor, will make them vigorously and speedily attempt the King's Ruin, unless he suddenly prevents it, by adhering to his Parliament, and ruining them first. If his Majesty would be pleas'd for one Month to think himself *Henry VIII.* and we his Subjects for the same time (forgetting we are Protestants) do by the Papists, as they would do by us, were they in our condition, what would become of *Portugal* and *Brussels*? even *Rome* it self would tremble at us. Something must speedily be done; and if we will not begin with them, they will begin with us: for all the favour His Majesty can shew them, will not satisfy that greater expectation which they have from a declared popish King. So that nothing does more justify the Plot, than their corrupt Principles, and present Interest; which will make them (being sure to have the succeeding King on their side) rather venture to push for it now, and run the hazard of the peoples revenge, than suffer any longer the inconvenience of an *English* Parliament, or danger of the next Successor being a Protestant.

IX.

Having thus therefore shew'd you the danger wherein His Majesties Person now is; give me leave in the next place, to inform you Gentlemen, wherein is your greatest danger, both in relation to your City, & your selves: First then, as to your City, the cheifest danger wherunto it is Obnoxious, is that of Fire; for wheresoever the *Jesuits* Interests prevails, they will above all things desire the Burning of *London*: first, because it is the only united Force able to withstand Arbitrary Government; and without that, Popery can never prevail. Secondly, it is the only place where by reason of their excellent Preaching, and daily Instruction in the Protestant Religion, the people have a lively sense thereof, and doubtless will not part with it to pleasure a Prince; but perhaps rather lose their Lives by the Sword in the *VVars*, than by Faggots in *Smithfield*. Thirdly, it is too powerful for any Prince, that governs not by the Love of his People, which no Popish Successor can expect to do. We read in our *English* Chronicles, that *Henry* the 3d. of *England* threatned to burn the City of *London*, for their taking part with the Parliament & Barons, who at that time made war upon the King for his too great countenancing of Foreigners. Also in our great Fire of *London* in 66. (if you will believe either Mr. *Bedlow's* Relation, or the Account which was then given in to the Committee of Parliament appointed for that purpose) many were actually taken a Firing it, and brought to Authority; but all let slip away, and none hang'd for it, but one poor *Frenchman*, who contrary to the Judges perswasion, would violently accuse himself. There is one most eminent great Papist, who in the time of that Fire pretended to secure many of the Incendiaries, but secretly suffer'd them all to escape: who this Person was, is already mentioned by Mr. *Bedlow*: For a Popish King, or a Popish Successor, cannot but rejoyce in the Flames of such a too powerful City. Secondly, the greatest danger accruing to your Persons, as well as to the whole Kingdom, upon the King's untimely death, will proceed from a confusion and want of some eminent and interested person, whom you may trust to lead you up against a *French* and *Popish* Army: for which purpose no person is Fitter than his Grace the Duke of *Monmouth*, as well for quality, courage and conduct, as for that his Life and Fortune depends upon the same bottom with yours: he will stand by you, and therefore ought you to stand by him. And remember, the old Rule is, *He who hath the worst Title, ever makes the best King*;

as being contrain'd by a gracious Government, to supply what he wants in Title; that instead of *God and my Right*, his Motto may be, *God and my People*. Upon the death of *Alexander the Great*, when there was so great a confusion amongst the Officers about choosing a Successor to the Empire, no other expedient could be found out to pacifie the uproar of the Multitude, but the choosing of King *Philip's* illegitimate Son *Aridaus*, who notwithstanding he was a man but of reasonable parts himself, might (as they thought) perform that Office well enough, by the help of his wife Protector *Perdiccas*. I confess, upon the News of his Graces Banishment, the Countries were much surpris'd, and the more, for that we all knew they could have no Interest or advantage by his Absence, till his Majesty was near his End. Which puts me in mind of the Story that *Josephus* relates concerning *Herod*; viz. that *Antipater* (to secure to himself the Crown) having by his Treachery and False Accusations prevail'd with *Herod* to Banish his two innocent Sons *Alexander* and *Aristobulus*, as also in his life-time to declare *Antipater* for his Successor, did after that, the better to confirm his Title, exasperate *Herod* to put them both to death which was no sooner done, and *Antipater* freed from the Jealousie of their Succession, but he begins to think *Herod* himself had lived too long: wherefore entering into Conspiracy with *Herod's* own Wife, as well as with *Pharoas* and many others, he decreed to poyson him: Yet not being willing to be present himself at the execution of it, (for fear of some popular Tumult) he absented himself and went to *Rome*. But providence discovering this Plot to *Herod*, it soon after cost *Antipater* his Life; and may all such Traytors succeed accordingly.

These things (most worthy Citizens) I have presumed to offer to your perusal, in respect that upon the death of any King, your Lord Mayor (then in being) is the only Magistrate in the Kingdom that retains any Office of power capable of serving the Subject: You are the persons who must revenge our Sovereigns violent death; which if ever it should happen, the Countries one and all would be ready to assist you: But Heaven defend us from the Occasion; God preserve the King, and send your City to prosper: which is the constant and hearty Prayers of,

Your Friend and Servant,
Junius Brutus.

Postscript.

AS well to justifie part of my preceding Discourse, as to acquaint you with the pernicious Tenents of the Church of *Rome*, how dangerous they are both to *Prince* and *People*, I have here inserted some few of their Canons, which all *Papists* are oblig'd to believe and submit to.

Canons which the *Romish* Church holds, to the Ruine and Dishonour of Princes, are these which follow.

1. The Emperor is the Bishop of Rome's Subject, and the Bishop of Rome may revoke the Emperor's Sentence in Temporal Causes.
2. Princes Laws, if they be against the Canons and Decrees of the Bishop of Rome, be of no force nor strength.
3. All Kings, Bishops, and Noblemen, that believe or suffer the Bishop of Rome's Decrees in any thing to be violate, be accursed, and for ever culpable before God, as Transgressors of the Catholick Faith.
4. The Bishop of Rome may Excommunicate Emperors and Princes, depose them from their States, and disengage their Subjects from their Oaths and Obedience to them, and so constrain them to Rebellion.

These and many more there are to the same purpose; wherefore that Prince, who thinks himself so weak as to need a Governour, who thinks himself too Rich, or desires to be a Slave to an old *Bar-dasso*, let him turn *Papist*.

More *Romish* Canons, fitting to be consider'd by all Abby-Landed men.

1. The Goods of the Church may in no wise be alienated, but whosoever receiveth or buyeth them, is bound to restitution; and if the Church have any Ground that is little or nothing worth, yet it shall not be given to the Prince; and if the Prince will needs buy it, the sale shall be void, and of no strength.
2. It is not lawful for the Bishop of Rome to alienate or mortgage any Lands of the Church, for any cause whatsoever; except it be Houses in Cities, which be very chargeable to support and maintain.

So that if any men (who have Estates in Abbey-Lands) desire to beg their Bread, and relinquish their Habitations and Fortunes to some old greasie bald-pated Abbot, Monk, or Friar, then let him Vote for a *Popish* Successor and *Popery*; for when once that Religion is established amongst us, these Canons will come in play; and the Pope will then tell you, (whatsoever he may pretend at first) that his Predecessor had no Right to give away what belong'd to the Church. And this *Mr. Coleman* well knew, when he promised himself no less than to be once Master of the Earl of *Bedford's* Estate: but unluckily the Gallows prevented it, in making him a Saint before his time.

He that desires to be further satisfied about these Canons, let him look into *Dr. Burnetts* late excellent History of the Reformation, and there he shall find the Original and Authentick Quotations, which were too tedious here to insert.